

SUMMER 2019

 MONTANA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

Spokesman

WE CARE FOR THE COUNTRY

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RANCH MOM LIFE

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A publication for the more than 21,000 member families of the Montana Farm Bureau Federation

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Spokesman

MONTANA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

WE CARE FOR THE COUNTRY



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ON THE COVER:
Clayton Lohr on his wheat farm in Shelby.

*Photo by Megan Benjamin,
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Hans McPherson
President, Montana Farm
Bureau Federation

“ It was
apparent many of
the same issues that
farmers faced in
Montana in 1919 are
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facing in 2019. ”

The more things change the more they stay the same

At the time I'm writing this editorial we have just finished a very successful, well attended, informative and very fun celebratory Montana Farm Bureau Summer Conference. It was great to see people from all corners of the state working on committees for our grassroots policy development. It was impressive to have informative presentations and enlightening sessions with engaging speakers.

As we watched the videos and the presentations on issues Montana Farm Bureau faced 100 years ago, it was apparent many of the same issues that farmers faced in Montana in 1919 are almost identical to the ones we are facing in 2019. Farmers of today are facing issues like tariffs, overreaching governmental regulations and markets that are so low they've gone off the charts. Just as 100 years ago farmers joined together to combat many of the same issues at the end of World War I, it is imperative that we maintain a strong, vibrant Montana Farm Bureau. At our summer conference, it was interesting to see the reprinted articles that were made into posters and hung on the walls during our MFB Foundation Fundraiser in Wright's Big Yellow Barn. I might mention as an aside that one newspaper had an ad for a Fordson Tractor that cost \$802.50!

Our numbers are declining as only two percent of the U.S. population is involved in agriculture. Farm Bureau provides you with a voice. Montana Farm Bureau has been a powerhouse in our legislature for a long time. During our summer conference as we presented awards to our state legislators from the 2019 legislative session, it was obvious how well-respected Montana Farm Bureau lobbyists and policies are in Helena.

I can't help but think as we celebrate our centennial that we are fortunate in Montana

to be receiving rain as well as sunshine. Yes, there have been some delays getting our crops into the ground, but so many farmers across America are suffering from severe floods and calamities of all sorts that are preventing people from even planting their crops. It can truly be depressing.

Farmer suicide, as highlighted in the 2019 Spring Spokesman, has become a sad reality. The opioid crisis is an epidemic. In fact, American Farm Bureau in partnership with the National Farmers Union has kicked off its Farm Town Strong program to combat opioid addiction in rural America. The big difference between 1919 and now is there are less of us as a percentage of the overall population. This means we need to work harder than ever to get our message to the general public about the work farmers and ranchers do and the danger of not understanding when farmers need assistance due to catastrophic weather events and international strife that can affect trade and our livelihood. As we look at the raft of other problems facing farmers its more important than ever to have one united voice in Helena and in Washington, D.C.

It was great to see so many members in Bozeman celebrating our 100th year anniversary. Wishing you a fall harvest that has your grain bins overflowing, your cattle at the end of the price slide and your sugar beets setting tonnage records. See you for the 100th Montana Farm Bureau Annual Convention November 11-14 in Billings. Keep in mind that means the convention runs Monday through Thursday. We will continue to celebrate our centennial year and hope all of our members can join us as we continue the good work of those farmers and ranchers started 100 years ago.



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Technology is the answer to feed a growing population

The world population is expected to reach 9.8 billion by 2050 with most growth in a small number of countries. In fact, during our MFBF Summer Conference, Montana State University Economist Dr. Gary Brester told us that the world will need 70 percent more food by 2050. During that time almost half of the world's population growth will be concentrated in nine countries: India, Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Pakistan, Ethiopia, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States, Uganda and Indonesia.

How are we going to feed this exploding population? That was a question posed in 1968 when Dr. Paul Ehrlich stated, "The battle to feed all of humanity is over. In the 1970s hundreds of millions of people will starve to death in spite of any crash programs embarked upon now. At this late date nothing can prevent a substantial increase in the world death rate." As we all know none of this transpired, and much of that reason was because of Norm Borlaug who was considered the father of the "Green Revolution." He was an American scientist, plant pathologist, and winner of the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1970. Borlaug helped lay the groundwork for agricultural technological advances that alleviated world hunger through new techniques of plant breeding.

It's exciting news that agriculture has been able to increase production through innovation and technology. American farmers today grow about 40 percent more corn, 30 percent more soybeans and 19 percent more wheat than 35 years ago on the same amount of land using 50 percent less water, 40 percent less energy with 60 percent less erosion.

Although technology and innovation drove those increases in production which prevented mass starvation in third-world countries, that technology and innovation is being increasingly stifled by regulation. That was the topic of a recent workshop I attended hosted at Montana State University by the Initiative for Regulation and Applied Economic Analysis. The workshop "Current and Emerging Issues for Regulating Crop Protection Technologies" brought in experts from several universities to speak on the subject.

One of the subjects that came up was the use of genetically modified, or genetically engineered, organisms. This technology, although approved by nearly all scientific organizations, still faces resistance and regulation far exceeding traditional

breeding methods. Current regulatory policies violate nearly all principles of scientific study. In fact, GMO products have been approved by the Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration. Some GMO products have been in use since the late 1970s (insulin, rennet for making cheese) with acceptance by the consuming public.

The question for the regulating community is: How do you develop science-based regulations when the science says there is no need for regulation? On GMOs, the bottom line is that public, academic and private businesses have developed hundreds of potentially useful genetically engineered crops, but only a handful have made it to market. Regulatory requirements unrelated to safety are the main obstacle. They limit innovation plus deny environmental and consumer benefits.

Another issue that received much discussion was the litigation over glyphosate (Roundup). Again, this is a product every legitimate scientific organization has proven is safe yet the courts continue to award huge settlements to litigants suing Monsanto (now Bayer). Science is evidently not trusted. We have scientists that are making statements on both sides of the safety issue. Sometimes it is in search of grant dollars or fame. Meanwhile we need to continue to develop other pest management products to use when plants become resistant to glyphosate. According to Dr. Andrew Kniss, Professor of Weed Science at University of Wyoming, new pesticide development and registration is expensive and difficult. Each chemical must go through over 132 separate tests and some products have numerous chemicals. CropLife America reports that only 1 product out of 159,000 tested makes it to market at a cost of approximately \$286 million.

If agriculture is going to continue to feed the world in the coming decades, we need to start using science-based programs that assess the risk and manages uncertainty rather than the precautionary principle of trying to assess uncertainty and manage risk. We will need innovation with all sectors of agriculture. But, as we've seen in the past, those in agriculture step up and proudly and efficiently manage to provide food for a growing population. Farm Bureau is proud to be looking to the future to ensure there is healthy food on every table now and for generations to come.



John Youngberg

Executive Vice President,
MFBF

“ If agriculture is going to continue to feed the world in the coming decades, we need to start using science-based programs that assess the risk and manages uncertainty rather than the precautionary principle of trying to assess uncertainty and manage risk. ”



Meet Mountain West Agent **Bill** **Schwarzkoph**

BY REBECCA COLNAR

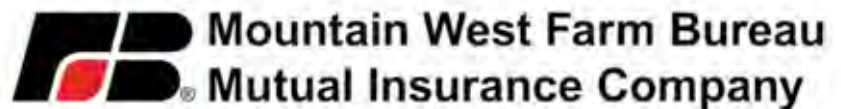
Although he doesn't live on a farm or ranch today, from age 6 Bill Schwarzkoph lived in Forsyth, Montana. His mother grew up on a ranch in Nebraska and his father grew up farming and continues to farm. "Agriculture is in my blood," the Mountain West Farm Bureau Insurance Agent said. "I still drive from Billings to Forsyth to help him on the farm and to go hunt."

His dad was a Bobcat, but Schwarzkoph wanted to meet people other than his friends who were heading to Montana State University; he decided to become a Griz, choosing to attend the University of Montana where he received a finance degree. (He is quick to point out that his daughter is a Bobcat.)

“Agriculture really is the backbone of Montana. If you look at every farm and ranch, that is a business that contributes to the community they live in.”

Schwarzkoph thought his studying days were over when he walked across the stage and received his diploma; instead, his education was just beginning. "I have studied more since I started my career than I did in college," he said. "I'm now a life-long learner. I have been in the investment and insurance side since I graduated 29 years ago. Those fields require continuous education. I have been a Chartered Financial Consultant since 2011. Learning makes you realize that you never will know it all and that's been humbling and eye opening."

He joined MWFBMIC 19 years ago in February, but wishes he had started with them from the beginning of his career.



"However, the jobs I had in the prior 10 years gave me a good foundation as well as made me appreciate Farm Bureau."

The Billings-based agent's main focus is on retirement planning. "I like presenting ideas my clients may not have thought about. There are a lot of complex subjects to retirement and financial planning."

Most of his clients live in more suburban and urban areas, but he enjoys getting out of the office to visit his farm and ranch clients.

Coming up with a future plan early is essential, but it's never too late to start. "It's important to have a plan and a goal, especially for my ag clients who might have their assets all tied up in their business. I recommend that they diversify and use retirement accounts."

One of the aspects Schwarzkoph especially likes about Farm Bureau insurance is that doing an annual review for a client. "The Mountain West office prints out the review form and mails it to us. It's helpful to have this mechanism that reminds us to do an annual review. It's so important as many times someone has added something of value that needs additional coverage."

He likes working for Mountain West since they are a regional company and

he has a great relationship with the company's leaders, and he especially likes the products available to help their clients.

He appreciates the Montana Farm Bureau Federation and how they help agriculture in Montana. "I try to make it to as many county annual meetings as I can, keep up to date on what the Federation is doing, and attend their annual convention."

"Agriculture really is the backbone of Montana," he noted. "If you look at every farm and ranch, that is a business that contributes to the community they live in. Most everybody has grown up on a farm and has a great work ethic."

As for community service, he has been involved for 19 years in the Exchange Club which promotes patriotism and prevention of child abuse. "Our fundraiser is the beer sold by our volunteers at the Metra for concerts, rodeos, the fair and other events."

The father of three grown children said he previously coached football, soccer and baseball, and was a football referee until three years ago. Now that he and his wife, Denise, are empty-nesters, he has more time to enjoy other hobbies like hunting, fishing and poker.



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The Glamorous Lifestyle of a Ranch Mom

BY MARIAH SHAMMEL

It's 10:28 on a Saturday night and this is the first time since 7:30 this morning that I'm alone. It's not entirely silent, the frogs are ribbeting in the pond behind our house and a cow that must have temporarily misplaced its calf is belling. For the moment, though, all the little people are tucked away in their beds and Favorite Farmer is trudging up the stairs to do the same. Usually I would grab a cup of tea and read a chapter of my latest must-read book before heading up to bed but tonight I'm sitting at the dining room table, reveling in the (almost) quiet. Then the dog needs to come in. On my way to the door, I catch a glimpse of myself in the mirror and can't help but laugh. Everything about the image looking back at me, including the miniature-sized handprint that's smeared across the bottom, is a picture-perfect reflection of my current lot in life.

“ Everything about the image looking back at me, including the miniature-sized handprint that's smeared across the bottom, is a picture-perfect reflection of my current lot in life. ”

I can only see from my waist up, which is probably best. The shoulder of my sweatshirt is smeared with cow poop, my left arm has remnants of the spit-up I thought I had completely wiped off earlier today, and some unknown substance, that I can only assume is most likely snot (and possibly a dried booger) has been wiped along my lower left pocket. My hair is in a knot on the top of my head, the same one I was wearing yesterday, and it looks like someone stuck a wilted Shooting Star

into it without my knowing. To top it off, only half of my face has makeup on it (“makeup” used loosely since the entire regimen includes mascara and lip gloss). When I tried to put the other half on while hauling cows to summer pasture this morning, my five-year-old caught me mid-stroke and promptly told me I shouldn't be doing anything distracting while driving and to focus on the road. No wonder the gas station attendant gave me a weird look when I stopped for a caffeine refill.

It's easy to get bogged down with my daily list of to-dos amid Favorite Farmer, our four bambinos and numerous four-legged bovines. Sometimes I forget there was a time when I was Mariah instead of Mom. I could actually eat my food while it was still hot because I didn't have to cut anyone's hot dog up first. When the phone rang there was a distinct possibility it was a friend of mine wanting to plan our upcoming weekend trip instead of asking for tips on potty-training their toddler. My life wasn't always dictated by the four seasons: calving, haying, harvest and feeding. I used to watch the Oscars and had gone to the theater to see most of the movies. Now I hear about the winners on the news the next day and am pretty proud of myself if I've even heard their titles.

I'm not complaining by any means, I absolutely love this crazy, manure-filled life and I'm getting pretty good at organizing the wild tornadoes that make up the ever-swirling storm around me. Nevertheless, it doesn't mean I'm a bad wife or mom for getting a bit nostalgic when I think back to a time when my schedule was the only one I worried about, the house was only messy when I was the one that made it that way and nobody would have a meltdown if I didn't have supper on the table by 6 p.m. It doesn't even mean I'm a bad person for looking forward to the near future when I can once again enjoy a hot meal and not have to plan my anything-but-common getaways in three-hour windows so I can

Mariah with her kids on the ranch.



be back in time to feed the baby.

It's just life, one phase after another and I just happen to be smackdab in the middle of one that's smelly, messy, and doesn't allow for a lot of “me” time. Before I know it, I'll be in a new phase, sitting in a clean(er), quiet house, eating a hot meal with Favorite Farmer and having a conversation that doesn't get interrupted 45 times. I have no doubt we'll revel in it but I also have a feeling we'll find ourselves wistfully looking back at the time in our lives when the house was full of scab-kneed kids and there was never a dull moment...and probably looking forward to the day our house is once again bursting at the seams with little people and chaos.

Until we're there though, I'll keep kissing the ouchies away, picking the peppers out of the pizza, and will try not to feel bad for sticking my head in the freezer every once in a while, dreaming of days past or years ahead. I will never, ever judge my mother again for all those times we saw her sneaking off with book in hand, looking for a little “me” time that I have a feeling was never quite long or often enough.





Preparing for a Summer Hailstorm

Reduce Damage by Thinking Ahead

According to the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), hail causes about \$1 billion in damage to property every year. At Mountain West, we deal with hundreds of claims caused by hail damage every summer. While you can't stop a hailstorm from coming, you can prepare for the coming storm. Here are several tips that will help you prepare your property for a hailstorm.

Assess Your Outdoor Area

If you have trees near your home, trim them regularly to prevent branches from falling on your home during a storm. Hail is denser than rain and can easily crack branches when it hits. High winds can contribute to the hazard of falling branches.

You should have your roof inspected prior to storm season to ensure that there isn't anything that could make the roof more susceptible to hail damage. If you

do have small damaged areas, it is best to repair them immediately. Fixing them right away could help prevent more extensive (and expensive) hail damage.

Batten Down the Hatches

When a potential hailstorm is headed your way, there are steps you can take to reduce or contain the potential damage. If the storm is far enough away, a good first step is to move vehicles to a covered area. You should move lawn objects like patio furniture and grills to a covered or enclosed area if possible. Such items can cause serious damage to your home if the wind picks up and they are left outside. If you can't move them, anchor them to the ground if you can.

The next step is to close all windows in your home, as well as any doors that lead outside. Closing curtains can also help to contain flying glass. If time allows, cover

your windows with a protective film or sheeting to resist further shattering.

Protect Yourself & Your Family

Your primary concern should be for your own safety and the safety of loved ones during a hailstorm. It's important that you do not attempt to prepare your home if the storm has already begun. Once the storm hits, find shelter: avoid water, high ground, isolated trees, picnic shelters and open spaces. Stay indoors and away from glass windows, doors or skylights that have the potential to shatter and cause injury.

After the Storm


If your property has sustained damage, call your insurance agent to report it. Prepare an inventory of what has been lost or damaged and take photos to document it.



Don't feel shocked when a storm hits.

Meet with your local agent today to go over all your insurance needs!

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History, hope and how we teach **resiliency**

BY LAURA C. NELSON

A recent study by Emory University showed a surprising indicator of a child's ability to overcome challenges in life.

Researchers asked children a series of 20 questions that measured their knowledge of their family history. The children who had a strong understanding of their family narrative showed higher self-esteem and felt a greater sense of control over their lives. Family history points out patterns of triumph or failure and helps a child recognize they, too, can overcome obstacles, learn from past mistakes and leave a meaningful legacy.

"Hearing these stories gave the children a sense of their history and a strong 'intergenerational self.' Even if they were only nine, their identity stretched back 100 years, giving them connection, strength and resilience," a researcher from the study noted.¹

Over the past year, I've searched through Montana Farm Bureau history, seeking a usable past to help make sense of who we are today and where we might go in the future. When I started, Yellowstone County Farm Bureau member Syd Gabel – a history and genealogy whiz!

– told me about 'genealogy serendipity:' the idea that the right pieces of history will surface at just the right time, linking the puzzle together in surprising ways.

One of those instances occurred this winter while I was in Helena for our 100th birthday bash. While our lobbying team shared updates on the important bills of the session – namely, discussions on how to address 'fake meat' – I spent a few days at the Montana Historical Society digging through farm magazines from the 1920s and 30s.

The first news story that caught my eye that morning was in a 1931 edition of *The Montana Farmer*: 'fake butter' was causing quite a stir in the dairy industry.

In 1931, Farm Bureau members celebrated the passage of the Brigham-Townsend bill, which would clarify and strengthen the federal oleomargarine act. Oleomargarine in its natural color, white, would now incur a federal tax of one-fourth cent per pound, but oleomargarine colored yellow to look like real butter would be taxed 10 cents per pound. The sale of colored oleomargarine of any kind was already prohibited by law in Montana, but much of Montana's dairy products were sold out of state, so this was good news



Laura with her camera in hand has become MFBF's historian.

for dairymen trying to protect the market dominance of their exported product.² That year in Montana, Senate Bill 27 also increased the license fee imposed upon retail dealers who sold oleomargarine from \$75 to \$100 per quarter.³

The success of regulating the competition out of business was fairly short lived. Oleomargarine got a big leg up during World War II when rationing required more 'points' to purchase butter than the cheaper oleomargarine alternative. The oleomargarine tax and license fee were defeated, but the 1948 Montana Farm Bureau delegates gave it another run: "The Congress of the United States and the various state legislatures have obligations in the public interest to prevent the fraudulent substitution of yellow oleomargarine for butter.

Dairy farming provides a most important source of soil fertility and the substitution of yellow oleomargarine, by eliminating a major portion of the butter market, will result in wholesale dispersal of dairy herds, and deal a serious blow to soil conservation," the delegate policy book read.

"Therefore be it resolved, that the Montana State Farm Bureau urge the state legislature to prohibit the imitation of butter through the commercial manufacture or sale of oleomargarine colored in semblance of butter ... We also urge the legislature to prohibit the use of vegetable oils in the manufacture of filled milk, filled cheese and filled ice cream."⁴

But by then, oleomargarine was accepted in many American kitchens, and the



Old newspapers photos show farm bureau history

¹EveryDay Strong: Teaching kids about family history helps increase resilience. Published online in the Herald Extra, Feb. 23, 2019. Retrieved from: https://www.heraldextra.com/news/community/charities/everyday-strong-teaching-kids-about-family-history-helps-increase-resilience/article_dbd0ef09-7570-5848-853a-87a2af730729.html

²Montana Farmer, April 15, 1931: Washington Happenings: Colored Margarine Tax

³Montana Farmer, May 15, 1931: Oleomargarine

⁴Montana State Farm Bureau News, December 1948 (page 3).

⁵Montana Agriculture, Oct. 1967 (page 4).

⁶EveryDay Strong: Teaching kids about family history helps increase resilience. Published online on Herald Extra Feb. 23, 2019. Retrieved from: https://www.heraldextra.com/news/community/charities/everyday-strong-teaching-kids-about-family-history-helps-increase-resilience/article_dbd0ef09-7570-5848-853a-87a2af730729.html

proposed regulations didn't gain traction. Two decades later, the dairy industry took a different approach, and the beef industry started taking notice. Former Montana Farm Bureau board member Dean Switzer was elected president of the Montana Beef Council in 1967. He urged his fellow cattle ranchers to study the experiences of their dairying friends in his Montana Agriculture (forerunner to the Spokesman) column:

"I visited with an owner of a Michigan dairy farm this week. He spoke of the budget that American Dairy Association uses in combating substitutes for dairy produce ... My calculations determine that their promotion expense is running about 44 times what we are putting into Montana beef promotion. They think it is money well spent and an absolutely necessary program. Substitutes are in practically every kitchen and are threatening to increase.

"Are we free from that threat? Imitation meat is not only coming – it's here! The October issue of Successful Farming has an article on the quality of the imitations that will make a beef producer look at

his hole card. My fervent wish is that the producers of the 40% of Montana cattle that aren't contributing the nickel on their direct sales, would read that article – then read some statistics on dairy substitutes. If they still don't want to send in a nickel per head to promote beef, I will be surprised," Switzer wrote in 1967.⁵

What do we learn from this? Can it help guide our decisions today? I can't say for sure. There are hundreds of economic, legislative and situational factors to study to help us understand how the dairy industry got to where it is today. Studying history almost never makes an issue less complex.

What I do know for sure is that the more I study history, the more I feel the truth of that Emory University research about children, family stories and resilience. Understanding and honoring those who have walked through similar situations throughout the generations – whether they came out in triumph or failure – imparts in me a feeling of great hope.

In reporting on the study, the Utah Herald interviewed family therapist Stefan Walters. "We all feel stronger if we are

part of a tapestry. One thread alone is weak, but, woven into something larger, surrounded by other threads, is more difficult to unravel," Walters said.

There's still time to uncover your own local Farm Bureau history. So far, only Phillips, Fergus, Sweet Grass and Cascade Counties have submitted written histories of their county Farm Bureaus (great work, you four!). We're challenging every county organization to do a little research, dig into the past and honor the folks who worked so hard to make your local Farm Bureau the strongly woven tapestry of experiences it is today. It would be a shame to leave our future Farm Bureau members wondering: Where did we come from? Why are we here??

You can find a simple, two-page handout with tips, ideas and resources to get started writing your own local Farm Bureau history at: www.lauracnelson.com/journal. We've extended the submission deadline to October 2019. We are looking forward to honoring the histories of your local Farm Bureaus alongside the state organization at convention.





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Equine Emergency First Aid topic at Summer Conference

BY REBECCA COLNAR



During the Montana Farm Bureau 2019 Summer Conference, the Equine Committee met to discuss issues involving horses. Dana Eklund, Equine First Aid Instructor, provided insight into horse care and basic first-aid.

Eklund discussed emergency health situations including colic, eye injury, wounds, choke, shock, laminitis/founder, hoof punctures and poisoning.

"Colic is basically stomach pain. The signs to look for are stretching out, looking or kicking at the stomach, lack of gut sounds, pawing and increased heart rate," said Eklund. "Your vet needs to be alerted, and if you are giving banamine for it, keep track of the amount. Don't let your horse eat or drink until you have consulted with your vet and make sure the horse doesn't roll. It's okay if he's lying down calmly, but thrashing around can cause additional

problems. Remember, even if the horse may pass manure and have gut sounds, he may still be in a colic episode."

If your horse has an eye injury, your vet should be called because trauma to an eye can quickly escalate to infection or an ulcer. "It's important to keep that eye out of the sunlight and note if the eye is cloudy and if there is a discharge," said Eklund.

As for wound care, wounds fall into several types: straight cut, tear, puncture or a foreign body. The main priority during a wound injury is to stop the bleeding and then keep it clean. "Call the vet if the cut is below the hock or knee or needs sutures. Those need to happen within six hours of the injury; the lack of blood supply to areas below the knee leaves tendons at more risk," Eklund explained. Wounds should be cleaned with a saline solution. If it's bleeding, put pressure on the wound to help it clot.

Cold hosing can also reduce the blood flow. Covering the wound with wound gel, gauze, cotton batting and vet wrap is essential.

Choke is another problem for horses. This happens when there is a blockage in the esophagus and the horse can't swallow. The symptoms are green discharge and/or frothy white saliva coming from the nose or mouth. "Keep the horse calm and encourage them to lower their head so you can remove the feed. Feel along the left side of the neck and massage it if necessary. If it's not clear in about 20 minutes, call your vet."

Lameness issues are complicated especially when it has laminitis or founder which is caused by the inflammation of the laminae. Extreme/prolonged inflammation can lead to the separation of and/or rotation of the coffin bone. Founder is the last and most severe stage.

"Look for a horse that may rock back to get pressure off his coffin bone, have a strong digital pulse and/or a warm hoof wall and coronary band," said Eklund. "Contact your vet regarding pain management. Some tactics may include cold hosing the hooves, putting the horse in a dry lot and wetting the hay down to reduce sugar intake.

Should your horse get a hoof puncture, it's important to use a betadine/iodine soak and make a duct tape boot to prevent more debris from entering. If the nail or object is still in the foot, don't remove it but alert your vet who will be able to advise you on the next step.

Finally, know what plants are toxic to horses in your area. These range in everything from water hemlock to locoweed, snakeweed and larkspur. "Symptoms of poisoning include rapid weight loss, decreased appetite, colic, diarrhea, poor balance and shaking," said Eklund. "Remove your horse from the suspected source and contact your vet with your observations."

Eklund encouraged everyone to check out the Horse Side Vet guide app and to assemble two first-aid kits, one for your barn and one for your horse trailer.



Do you know what is normal for your horse?

- **Vital Signs:** temperature 99.5 – 101.5 degrees fahrenheit
- **Pulse:** 30-40 beats per minute for a mature horse. (Newborns 60-80; weanlings and yearling 20-40)
- **Capillary Refill Time:** skin pinch test; skin should flatten out within 1-2 seconds
- **Gut Sounds:** upper and lower left of belly (colon) are usually slow
upper right (large intestine) sound like rain
lower right (small intestine) are faster and higher pitched.
- **Calculating Weight:** heart girth x heart girth x length divided by 330 (yearling + 301, weanling 280, pony, 299.)

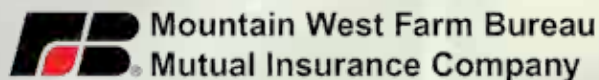
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Harvesting History, Cultivating Our Future

Montana Farm Bureau members discussed issues, learned about unique economic opportunities and visited with Montana State University personnel during the MFBF Summer Conference June 11-13 in Bozeman. The theme "Harvesting History; Cultivating Our Future" was prevalent in the informational sessions, speakers and tours as the state's largest ag organization continued its Centennial Celebration. The purpose of the Summer Conference is for advisory committees to discuss current agricultural issues and concerns and surface ideas for policy development.

As keynote speakers, MSU's ag economics professor Dr. Gary Brester discussed the need to feed 9.1 billion people by 2050 using crop technology, while MSU's Vice President of Agriculture Dr. Sreekala Bajwa talked about the combined history of MSU and MFBF.

Informational sessions included speakers on hemp, private property rights, effective technology use on livestock production, advocating by building consensus and value-added crops using regenerative agriculture. One session debuted the Montana Farm Bureau Centennial video and showed the American Farm Bureau Centennial video.

Wednesday evening members enjoyed the "Back in Time" Fundraising Dinner & Auction. Members were encouraged to "dress in their favorite decade." Districts put together baskets that were auctioned along with other fundraising activities. A total of \$8,750 was raised for the Foundation.

Thursday tours headed to Cowboy Cricket Farm, Resonon, Inc. and Gallatin Valley Botanicals at Rocky Creek Farm. The tours provided a varied look at current agriculture.

For more on the summer conference visit www.mfbf.org/news.

Opening session workshops committee meetings



Dr. Gary Brester, MSU, notes that food production in an efficient manner is critical to feed 34 percent more people by 2050.



MFBF President Hans McPherson kicks off the summer conference.



Dr. Jim Huffman discusses legal challenges to private property rights.



Bonita Cremer, chair, leads a brainstorming session with members of the H&S and Promotion & Education Committees.



Smittie Smith, RanchHacks, explains the benefits of cloud computing and drones in livestock production.

Lunch



MFBF Vice President Cyndi Johnson, Yellowstone County President Katie Kratky and AgriStudios Riley Slivka. AgriStudios produced the MFBF Centennial video that debuted at the Summer Conference.

Legislator Walt Sales, his wife La Rae, Rep. Ray Shaw and MFBF Executive Vice President John Youngberg.



Reception with Montana State University dignitaries at Bobcat Stadium



Powderville rancher Lillian Ostendorf visits with the new MSU Vice President of Agriculture Dr. Sreekala Bajwa.



Two MFBF past presidents Dave McClure and Bob Hanson.

"Back in Time" MFB Foundation Fundraiser at Wright's Big Yellow Barn



Costume contest winners Jules and Bonnie Marchessault.

Tours



Bill Jones and Steve Gordon learn about insects as a great protein source at Cowboy Cricket Farm.



Ed and Kayla Bandel show off their Roaring '20s attire.



The gang not only learned about a successful organic produce business, but got a wagon ride, too.



Matt Cremer and Jim Willis. Nobody was sure if they were dressed "old-timey" or in their usual clothes!



Louise Stoner learns about hyperspectral imaging at Resonon.



Tom and Sharon Rice put on their best centennial look.



Young Farmers and Ranchers share candid thoughts on agriculture

When commodity and cattle prices hit impressive highs earlier this decade young farmers and ranchers decided they could make a living doing what they love most. Many of them came home eager to jump in and take the reins. Although theories abound why the prices that economists assured agricultural producers would last “for a few years” suddenly tanked, the reality is it left young farmers wondering what to do next.

The latest statistics show less than two percent of the population in the United States is involved in production agriculture. However, fifteen percent are involved in agriculture in some capacity, from research to marketing, sales to food production. Even with the poor commodity prices, young farmers and ranchers have found life in an agricultural pursuit to be rewarding, although challenging in today's social and business climate. The following four young people involved in agriculture share their thoughts on the current concerns and future of agriculture.

Klayton Lohr: Toughing it out in the Golden Triangle

BY REBECCA COLNAR

Klayton Lohr remembers watching commodity prices the day the U.S. Department of Agriculture was announcing their second round of aid to farmers who had been hurt by trade tariffs. At 9 a.m. winter wheat was on a rally with the local cash price of \$4.97 per bushel.

“Somewhere between then and 10:30 a.m., the aid announcement was made and the price dropped 18 cents. It totally tanked,” Lohr said disgustedly. It got worse. “When there was rain in Midwest, the local cash price for winter wheat was \$5.29. It looked like there would be an even bigger run because it kept raining. Then President Trump put out a Tweet saying there was a potential for tariffs against Mexico. The price dropped 20 cents per bushel. If we live in a time where a Tweet can run the grain market by 20 cents, we have a big problem. In the 1970s and 80s, grain markets might move 10-20 cents in a year. Now we saw it drop 40 cents in three days and that's close to 10 percent of my overall income.”

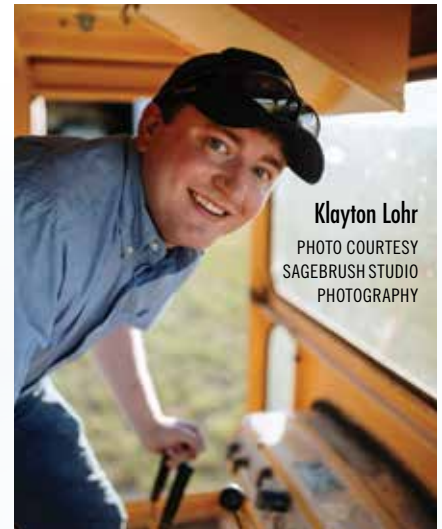
Lohr, who was born and raised 20 miles from Shelby, always wanted to be a farmer and actively starting helping his dad at age 10. “My grandma called us the ‘the man-and-a-half crew,’” he remembered fondly. “I started farming and never wanted to quit.

After high school I was planning to go to Montana State University because I couldn't stay on the farm, but just before high school graduation, my neighbors asked if I wanted to lease their farm. It sounded like a good opportunity.

The opportunity that started out sounding perfect turned out not to be. “The day I signed the lease, wheat was worth \$7 per bushel. I sold my first winter wheat crop for \$3.90 per bushel. That's a big loss. I fought my way to get out of that for four years because it wasn't working. I gave up that lease and started farming at my family's place exclusively.”

The 23-year-old explained he was only able to do that when his father, age 58, took an off-the-farm job. (His mother runs a coffee shop and boutique in Shelby.) “He had to do that so we could afford health insurance. That was sad, our biggest struggle was affording health insurance. By taking the off-farm job, it made things easier. This was my first spring as a one-man show. It was difficult at times, but I got through it.”

He primarily grows winter and spring wheat on half of the farm with the other planted in durum wheat for Pasta Montana. The contract with that company



Klayton Lohr
PHOTO COURTESY
SAGEBRUSH STUDIO
PHOTOGRAPHY

has enabled him to stay in business the past two years.

“I tried growing pulse crops—peas and lentils—but the market for those have tanked and we don't get enough rain to make those crops fit in,” Lohr said. “This year I'm trying some hay barley. I think it should be good. I seeded it in a low spot so there is lots of moisture there, so it should do pretty well.”

He acknowledges that the reason he stays in farming is due to family history. “Our farm will be 110 years old in 2020. It's rewarding to be farming the same land as all of those generations before—I'm the fourth. I love the lifestyle—the stress, not

so much. There's a lot to be said about being your own boss. I always tell people I'd like to fire myself but who would I get to replace me?"

"There are fewer and fewer of us, which is pretty sad but who can blame them? You almost have to have somebody, or be under 26-years-old, who is providing health insurance, otherwise things don't pencil out. As an example, in 1975 my grandfather sold wheat for \$5 per bushel and bought a new combine for \$22,000. Today, I sold my wheat for the same price but a used combine costs \$240,000. It's ten times the price for equipment yet the price of wheat is the same. If you want to become a farmer, you need years of family history backing you. It's tough."

He points out the lowest the wheat price has ever been was during the Great Depression at .49 cents per a bushel. "If you take that and put inflation up until today, that comes out to \$9.09 bushel. If we were getting \$9 a bushel today, this interview would be completely different," said Lohr.

Although he's thought about planting other crops, he says the area's low rainfall dictates what can be planted. "Everyone is talking about hemp, but you need irrigation for the high-dollar contracts and it's a very expensive crop to put in unless you get a contract where the company is footing the bill. In my opinion wheat built the Golden Triangle and that's what will keep us afloat."

Lohr is hoping Congress passes the U.S. Mexico Free Trade Agreement soon. "The tariffs have hurt us. We need trade, not aid. If you can't do business with your next-door neighbor, what makes you think you can do business around the world? Everyone talks about China, but we should be working harder to trade with Japan. They love our wheat. Getting a sound trade deal with them would help the



Klayton Lohr, second from left, at the YF&R Calling on the Capitol.

wheat market tremendously."

The hard-working young farmer explains that strategies have changed. "A year ago, our biggest concern was communicating to consumers that we weren't trying to kill them. Now, our biggest concern is pleading for something to happen so we can make it. My dad says even with his off-the-farm income he can barely keep up with the drops in the wheat market. That's scary."

Being on the MFBF Young Farmer & Rancher Committee has been a good experience and allowed him to continue his education. He joined Farm Bureau in December 2017 after he visited with MFBF Vice President Cyndi Johnson and husband, Ken, who are Conrad wheat farmers. "They wanted to send someone to the 2018 National YF&R Conference in Reno. I went and loved it. Then I was nominated for the state YF&R committee and have attended their events such as Calling on the Capitol."

Even with American Farm Bureau

nationally hammering the message home about the need for trade and other agricultural concerns, Lohr is worried about the future of agriculture and the country.

"Farmers are in crisis and nobody is paying attention. We forget that our corn farmers in the Midwest aren't going to get a crop. If this county doesn't start paying attention to ag, it is in for a big wreck that will come could some sooner rather than later. Since I took over the farm just after the ag economy got bad and continues to get worse, my banker told me if I can get through this, nothing will ever be able to get to me."

After a moment, Lohr adds, "There are many days when we wonder why we do what we do, but then you're out doing field work at 6 a.m. and the radio station plays the Paul Harvey ad "So God Made a Farmer" followed by the national anthem and you quit thinking about the money and logistics and think about what you are doing and suddenly it all makes sense again."



Career, creative management helps young producer keep ranch sustainable

BY REBECCA COLNAR

JM Peck was raised on his family's Trapper Creek Ranch in Melrose, Montana. He competed in 4-H showing sheep and steers. Following high school, Peck attended Montana State University.

"I really just wanted to ranch, but due to generational issues, there wasn't an opportunity at that time to stay," Peck explained. "I attended Montana State University and received a degree in mechanical engineering in 2010. The economy was in a tough place and jobs were scarce. I accepted a job as an engineer at the Conoco Phillips oil refinery in Billings and studied to earn my Professional Engineering License. My girlfriend, Amanda, (now my wife) and I bought a house, got married and got our first dog. It was a good lifestyle."

An opportunity for a job in Butte came up and Peck jumped at the chance to be closer to home. "At that time, my grandmother, who was 92-years-old and

in assisted living suggested we live in her house on the ranch. I was excited because when I got off work in the evening and on weekends, I could be helping dad. Amanda was a teacher."

Then Peck was offered his former Conoco Phillips job back in Billings and an opportunity to return to the ranch. "While we were working things out with my extended family, I accepted the Billings job. For many months I drove from Billings to Melrose every weekend. However, this was a good opportunity to save money as well as becoming more experienced with managing the family ranch."

Peck's grandfather, father and Peck had a passion for ranching, but not the rest of family. "My grandpa came back from World War II and ended up in Montana because he loved cattle. My dad came back to the ranch when he had the opportunity and now was my chance."

Other family members who enjoyed hunting and fishing at the ranch were not



interested in agriculture. Peck and his father put together a deal, including the money Peck had saved, and bought the other family members' shares of the ranch.

"That was a long process," said Peck. "I quickly realized because I had saved money from my career and our house in Billings was a good investment, I was in a position to make the family ranch my career."

Peck, who primarily runs Black Angus, sees himself not so much as a cattle rancher but a grass farmer. "Our cows are our method to harvest grass. We calve in the spring, feed them for several months—our grass comes in late because of our high elevation. Then we run them on a BLM lease and move them a month later onto grass on a Forest Service lease, managing that allotment all summer. When we're not chasing cattle, we have 1000 acres of alfalfa and native grass to irrigate."

In October, the Pecks wean, sell and ship their cattle and get ready for the next cycle—calving.

Although 4-H gave Peck a good background learning about business and he had worked for his father managing the entire ranch himself for the past two years has been challenging. "It's a struggle to start with depressed cattle prices which are even lower now than when I first started," Peck said. "I need to make tough decisions daily and find ways to work smarter. You strive



(Left) JM Peck and son, Jude, out for ride. (Right) Amanda and JM Peck at the MFBF reception at Bobcat Stadium during the 2019 Summer Conference.



Peck's favorite 1987 John Deere.

to get the cows bred back, but then you go through a tough winter with snow, illness and a higher mortality rate. It's a challenge every year to sell enough cattle to make enough to run cows next year. We have a tractor that I love that is a 1987 model. My dad bought it when I was born. It cost \$25,000 new. Today, that same tractor is \$225,000. On a percentage basis, cattle prices haven't gone up that much."

The thoughtful young rancher says he doesn't have the solution but tries different things such as not doing as much haying but keeping cattle on grass longer. Future ideas may be moving part of their herd to fall calving or running more yearlings.

A friend invited Peck to a county Farm Bureau meeting and he was hooked. "I became very motivated when I attended an advocacy training with American Farm Bureau in Washington, D.C.," he said. "It



Checking the water is part of good animal husbandry.

was a pivotal moment for me to become more involved. I got appointed to the Montana Farm Bureau YF&R Committee. Joining YF&R is a great way to network with other young producers, whether you're talking about generational planning or sharing information on cows."

He believes the greatest challenge is the producer/consumer divide. "There are some things we don't have control over like the weather and trade, but by being in


a great grassroots organization like Farm Bureau, we can drive the conversation with consumers and have an impact. We need to share with the work and passion we have for farming and ranching in educating consumers and that we're doing the right thing and protecting the environment. We're running our ranches sustainably. It's essential that young farmers and ranchers advocate and be involved."



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Love of agriculture leads to teaching career

BY REBECCA COLNAR

Being involved in agriculture does not necessarily mean driving tractors, raising cattle and producing food and fiber. Kim Gibbs has followed a different path in her career; an instructor in ag studies at Miles Community College, Miles City. Her interest in agriculture started early.

"I grew up in a small town in Texas on a family farm in Texas Hill Country that had been in my family for years," Gibbs explained. "I competed in 4-H with range judging, showed heifers, lambs and pigs. I went to Texas A&M for range management and ecology. After I graduated, I wanted to get a master's degree and while looking I found a position at Fort Keogh Research Station in Miles City. I moved up here 11 years ago and worked at Fort Keogh. I earned a graduate degree from MSU in range management with my thesis being a fire ecology project."

Seven years ago, Gibbs was working for the Department of Natural Resources when the ag instructor position at MCC came open. It was the perfect fit.

"My husband is from a ranch in Jordan and through mutual friends we met and were married in 2012 and have two young daughters. He's a livestock auctioneer and has a small feed business in Miles City."

She teaches a variety of classes from range science to general ag classes and an Introduction to Agriculture class which covers careers and goal setting. In addition, she's the advisor to the MCC Ag Club. "We started it about three years ago. My dad had been a Farm Bureau member forever and I was familiar with our county Farm Bureau. I knew about Farm Bureau and starting the club with ties to Farm Bureau at MCC was a good fit," Gibbs said. "It provides an excellent opportunity for students to network with other young people who are interested in agriculture. There are options to do competitions, develop leadership skills and learn about the ag industry across the U.S."

When the club first started, there were six

Collin and Kim Gibbs with daughters Morgan and Teagan.



students; three years later there are 20-plus. In 2018, they had 8-10 students competing in YF&R Collegiate Discussion Meet.

Members of the club have attended the MFBF Annual Meeting, they've been to the AFBF FUSION Conference and National Young Farmer & Rancher Conference and they have traveled to Helena for the YF&R Calling on the Capitol.

"With my background in range, I stay active in the Society for Range Management and take the students to compete in their range contest. In 2018 we captured the Rangeland Cup which is the first time a community college has won," Gibbs said proudly. "The goal of that competition was to create a poster about how to get more people involved in conservation efforts. Our group targeted stay-at-home moms and explained how conservation can benefit her and her family."

The energetic mother of two encourages the students to be involved in agriculture, but in different aspects than what their parents and grandparents have done. "Production agriculture is hard. There are a lot of factors that play a role and you have to make informed decisions and figure what's going to work for your family so you can make a living," Gibbs said. "I tell students to take business classes,

not just ag classes because if you farm or ranch, you are a small business owner. It's important for students to understand that production agriculture is not what it used to be. There are a lot of people in financial trouble. Students need to complete a simple business plan in one class, and I want them to look at the big picture; the prices, the costs, and everything that goes into running a farm or ranch. It's shocking."

She tells students who express an interest in coming back to the ranch to step outside their comfort zone, work elsewhere and bring new ideas back to the ranch. She encourages students to educate consumers who don't know anything about agriculture and food production.

Students can earn an Associate of Applied Science Degree in equine studies, ag production or wildlife studies or an Associate Science degree in livestock, natural resources & range management, animal science/pre-vet or agribusiness that transfers to four-year colleges in Montana and other states.

"Students with an A.S. degree generally transfer to MSU or Dickinson State University in North Dakota," Gibbs noted. "We offer the A.A.S. degree in wildlife and I like to make sure our ag students talk to the future wildlife biologists. With



Learning about food production as part of the REAL Montana trip to Lewistown.

more and more people concerned about wildlife, I think it's crucial for ag students and wildlife students to network. That way, it will be a better situation down the road when the rancher already has a good relationship with the wildlife biologist."

Gibbs praises the small classes at MCC. "My largest class is around 25 students with my smallest class six. It's great because you can have a lot of hands-on work in classes that aren't large."

With her interest in learning, Gibbs was part of the REAL (Resource Education and Agricultural Leadership) Montana Class III. "I applied for REAL Montana because I'm



Kim Gibbs with a few of her students during graduation at Miles Community College.

not native to Montana and wanted to learn more. In my field it's important to learn about the natural resource industries in Montana from mining to energy to timber as well as agriculture. This was

the first time I'd been on an international trip—India—which was incredible. It expanded my horizons and I can share this knowledge with my students."



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Zach Weimortz: From California to Montana—a look at agriculture and consumer relations

BY REBECCA COLNAR

People in Montana generally don't think about growing pistachios unless they're buying a small bag of them at the grocery store. Zach Weimortz has a lot of knowledge about the tasty pale green nut. He hails from a small family farm in northern California where his grandfather was first to grow them in his county.

"That's where I was born and got my passion for agriculture. My grandfather passed away when I was in high school, so other than being in FFA, I had some disconnect from agriculture. I wanted to stay in the industry so I majored in Crop Science at California Polytechnic State University/San Luis Obispo and managed the school farm."

After graduation, Weimortz headed to Montana where he worked as an agronomist for Town & Country Supply. After four years, he took a position managing sales for a fertilizer manufacturer, Montana Sulphur & Chemical Company. His wife, Megan, who had also attended Cal Poly found a job with World West Sire Services in Laurel. Although the couple live on a ranch near Edgar and help with the cattle, they don't ranch per se.

"Even though I'm removed from farming myself, I stay involved in agriculture by working closely with famers, as well as being able to continue my passion for farming through Farm Bureau," Weimortz said. As a fertilizer dealer, "I often have conversations regarding organic farming, pesticides and fertilizer."

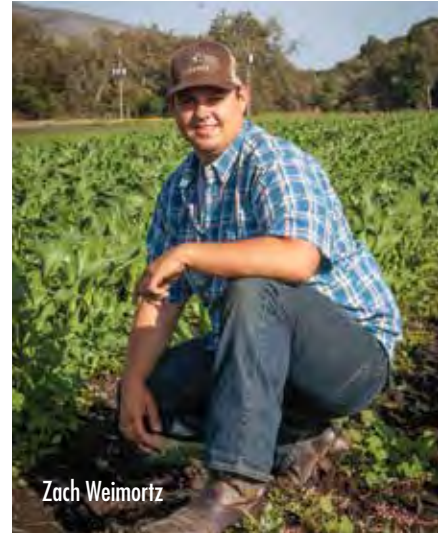
"In my opinion, neither [organic or conventional farming] is better than the

other. What I always ask first is whether it's sustainable and what makes sense economically. There are good and bad practices for both," Weimortz said. "It's important to realize the value of the sustainability. Organic produce and crops are not necessarily better for you. There are several labeled organic pesticides on the market but some of them have been deemed too toxic to use in the United States. A lot of people don't realize that."

He stressed the importance of being sensitive to consumer demands. "Personally, when I have a discussion, I remind myself that it's an open conversation. It's better to involve someone in in the discussion than just telling them something. Understand why they believe what they do and figure out where that belief came from. I have knowledge from my background and education and I have a different outlook than those who are disconnected from agriculture. Farmers and ranchers are the two percent who understand what agriculture is like. If we don't educate the public, they are only hearing one side."

Megan was managing the poultry farm at Cal Poly when California voters passed Proposition 2 requiring farmers to extend their cage size for chickens. "That put a lot of California farmers out of business. The general public didn't actually realize that would happen. What I think Montana really has going for it is its smaller communities. I feel people in small towns communicate better and think about issues before they make any regulations. In California, people make changes based on emotional decisions and don't think about who they are affecting."

Weimortz believes the challenges young farmers are facing is financial; it's hard to make a living and face lifelong debt. "Some people have gone back to the farm after the older generation has retired. My fear for them is not being adaptable and able to fix

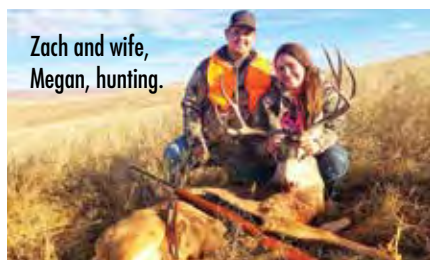


Zach Weimortz

the newer equipment. The new equipment coming out is so integrated in technology, nobody but a trained technician will be able to fix it. There is the challenge of less and less farm ground, as well, so it's harder and harder to grow your business."

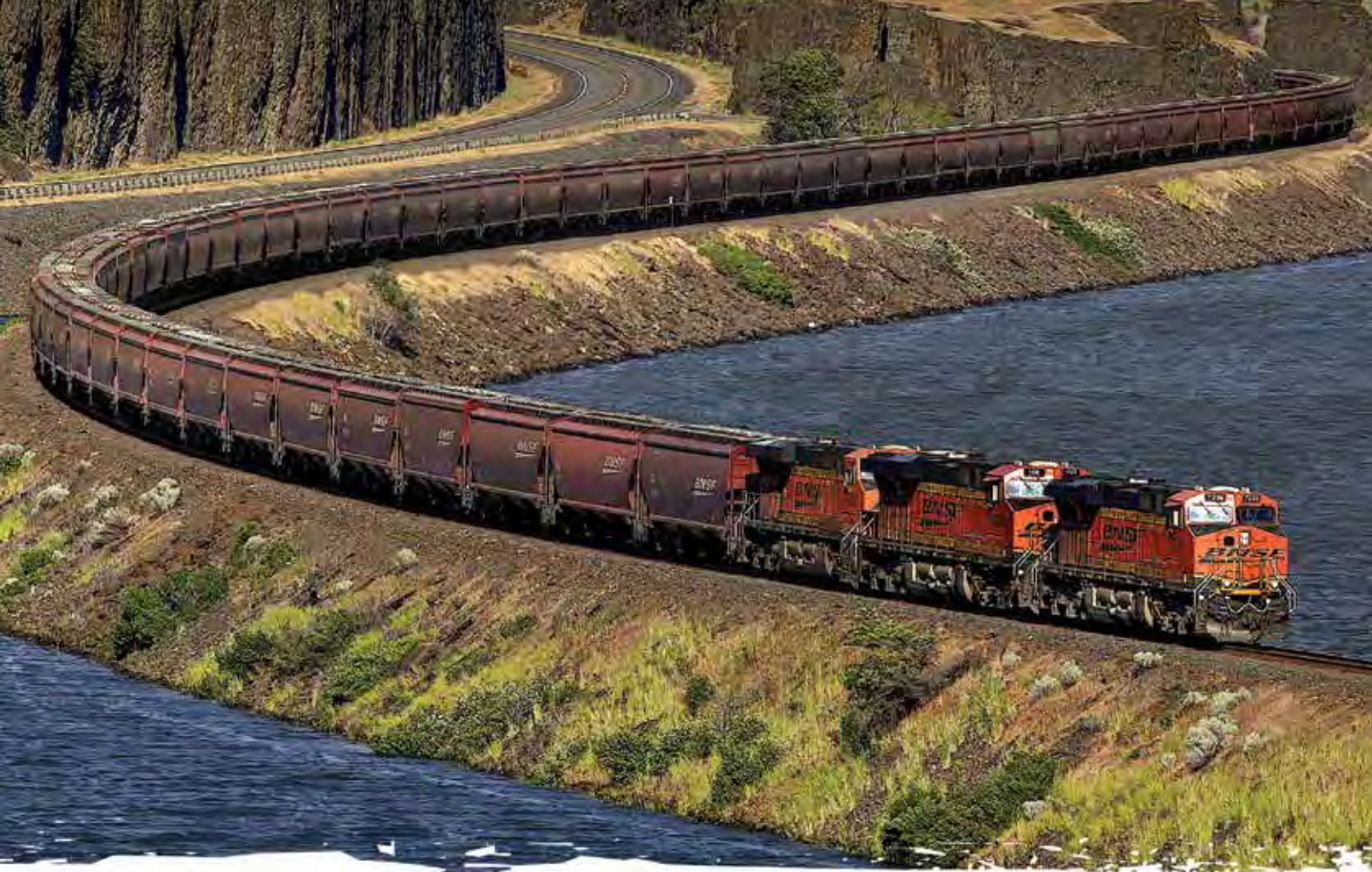
Although Weimortz cites that his age group is "lazy", they're efficient. "Using technology in agriculture is a good tool to improve what we're doing. Precision agriculture will change the way you think about applying fertilizer or other crop inputs. You can see what you're saving and what ground is productive and you can put your money where you get the best return. We have become more efficient and we are able to grow twice the yield as we did 50 years ago on half the land."

The couple joined Carbon/Stillwater County Farm Bureau in 2018. Weimortz produces the county newsletter and is currently chair of the county YF&R Committee. "I haven't been a member long but it's a great organization to connect me with different generations and I've learned so much from people with different backgrounds. We all have the same passion but different skill sets. We are able to recognize that everyone is valuable and work for the greater good to support each other."



Zach and wife, Megan, hunting.

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COUNTY NEWS

Meagher County held a membership event June 20 in White Sulphur Springs.

Choteau County held their annual pancake breakfast and parade float with a centennial theme for the Fort Benton Summer Celebration June 29. They handed out free bottled water to the community.

Hill-Liberty-Blaine held an ag safety event which included presentations on ATV safety, grain bin safety and first response/EMS safety.



Meagher County's membership event at Meagher Brewery.



Rhonda Boyd, Southwest Counties Farm Bureau, at the fair booth.

During Montana Range Days June 17-19 in Dillon, **Southwest Counties** handed out Farm Bureau centennial water bottles at their booth.

Farm Bureau provides lunch for livestock and ag risk mitigation seminar. Twenty-five attendees from law enforcement, emergency services personnel, Extension staff, rural fire departments, BLM staff and private business and ag producers met at the Fergus County Fairgrounds to become more aware on what they need in their emergency plans in the event of an agriculture-related disaster. Emergency responders received credit for the FEMA-credited exercise. Law enforcement officials earned six Peace Officer standards and training (P.O.S.T.) points for attending the seminar. Attendees from Fergus, Judith Basin and Deer Lodge Counties enjoyed a free lunch provided by **Fergus and Judith Basin County Farm Bureaus**.

Attendees learned how to set up a portable corral system as part of the emergency management training.



Cascade County will provide free bottled water with their name and centennial logo at the Cascade County Fair July 13-14.

Northwest Counties will sponsor the 4-H Exhibitors dinner Monday, July 29. The county Farm Bureau is sponsoring herdsman's buckles at the Lake County, Sanders County and Northwest Montana Fairs.

Carbon/Stillwater County will host a board and membership event July 9 at the Edgar Bar.

Park County is sponsoring Park County Ag Fair kick-off party July 24 and the buyers lunch July 27.

Fergus County held the Montana's Longest Table dinner June 22 and will host a picnic August 4.

Rosebud/Treasure County will have a booth at the Rosebud County Fair July 17-20 in Forsyth.

Powder River/Carter County will have a booth at the Powder River Fair and the Carter County Fair August 8-11.

Dawson-Wibaux County has its annual member picnic planned for August 11.



Young Farmer and Rancher News



Marsha Goettig, MSU Extension, covers why making a will is essential.

YF&R Ag Day covers estate planning, advocacy and a distillery tour

The Montana Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Rancher Committee held a successful YF&R Day June 11 in conjunction with the MFBF Summer Conference in Bozeman. The event included two information sessions: estate planning and Farm Bureau advocacy, along with a tour of the Dry Hill Distillery and a committee meeting.

Marsha Goettig, MSU Extension, covered the importance of having a will at any age, giving tips on how to bring parents and grandparents into the estate planning conversation. Goettig discussed a variety

of scenarios in which estates were not divided fairly amongst family members. "Remember that a contract will always trump a will," cautioned Goettig, noting the importance of reading the title documents to be sure you know the difference between "joint tenancy with right of survivorship" and "tenancy in common."

MFBF lobbyists covered highlights and outcomes from the 2019 Legislative Session. MFBF's Legislative Report Card was also provided to attendees and members were encouraged to look up their legislators and thank them for their dedication to agriculture! National issues were also covered as well as how they can be most effective advocating for agriculture during the interim.

The group had lunch at Dry Hill Distillery, which is owned by fifth generation family farmers who raise potatoes and cereal grains used in their spirits. Not only does the distillery produce spirits for their tasting room and at selected liquor stores throughout Montana, but they also custom-make spirits for other enterprises across the U.S. Following lunch at the distillery, a tour covered the farming aspects of making

grain as well as the distilling process.

The YF&R Day was a great success and committee members voted to continue holding it as a way to add additional value for young members attending the Summer Conference.

Polaris continues sponsorship of Young Farmers and Ranchers competition

The Montana Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Rancher Committee is thrilled that for the fifth year, Montana Polaris is the sponsor of the YF&R Discussion Meet, awarding a Ranger® Side by Side UTV to the winner of that competition. The MFBF YF&R Discussion Meet will take place Tuesday, November 12 during the MFBF Annual Convention in Billings.

"We're very excited that many of the Montana Polaris dealers have opted to donate a Ranger again to the winner of our Young Farmer and Rancher Discussion Meet," said YF&R Chair Gil Gasper, who won the Discussion Meet—and a Ranger—in 2016. "It's local money from the dealerships going to support this statewide event as well as supporting their local farmers and ranchers. It's been a great partnership. With all of the excitement generated during our centennial year, we look forward to having many young farmers and ranchers participate in this event."

Cali Rooney, winner of the 2018 Discussion Meet, is thrilled with her Polaris Ranger. "The Polaris Ranger that I was so fortunate to win has been used every day for fencing, moving cows and putting out salt and mineral. We love it and are so thankful for the generosity of Montana Polaris dealers. I strongly encourage other people ages 18-35 to participate in the competition. It's an amazing practice that teaches you how to be successful in discussing real policy. If you are thinking about trying the Discussion Meet, you will not regret it."

Not only will the winner of the Montana Discussion Meet receive a Polaris, but



The Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee at Dry Hills Distillery.

an expense-paid trip to compete in the national YF&R Discussion Meet in January in Austin, TX.

Thanks to these participating Polaris dealers for supporting our Young Farmers and Ranchers: Gallatin Recreation, Bozeman; Helena Cycle, Helena; Sports City Cyclery, Great Falls; Yellowstone Polaris, Billings; Beaverhead Motors, Dillon; Riverside Marine & Cycle, Miles City; Montana Power Products, Ronan; Jesco Marine, Kalispell; Kurt's Polaris, Missoula; Redline Sports, Inc, Butte; Lewistown Honda & Polaris, Lewistown; and Hiline Polaris, Havre. Be sure to stop by their dealerships to say thank you for supporting the Montana Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers, and check out their inventory.

More about the YF&R Discussion Meet

The Farm Bureau Discussion Meet contest is designed to simulate a committee meeting where discussion and active participation are expected from each participant. This competition is evaluated on an exchange of ideas

and information on a pre-determined topic. The judges are looking for the contestant that offers cooperation and communication while analyzing agricultural problems and developing solutions. These questions will be used for the YF&R Discussion Meet held during the MFBF Annual Convention in Billings, the AFBF Annual Convention in Austin, Texas and the Collegiate Discussion Meet held during the YF&R Leadership Conference in Louisville, Kentucky.

1. How can Farm Bureau build upon collaborative relationships such as Farm Town Strong to combat nationwide crises such as opioid dependence/ addiction and mental health issues? .
2. Products like cell-based food products have demonstrated the food system is rapidly changing. How can future food technologies and related products be beneficially integrated into modern agricultural production without hampering the success of traditional products and the farmers and ranchers who grow them? .
3. The customer is always right. How

do farmers and ranchers think and respond, through the lens of consumer priorities and marketing trends, to build common values and confidence in modern production methods to build consumer acceptance? .

4. With abundant productivity, farmers are in need of new markets, including outside traditional food and feed channels. How do we develop, invest and commercialize to innovate new uses of agricultural products and by-products to benefit all of agriculture? .
5. The 21st-century agricultural economy is threatened by labor shortages. Without a clear solution for accessing foreign guest workers as a component of immigration reform coming from Congress, what are some creative and legal ways for agriculture to address the labor needs of a modern production system?

For more information on the 2019 MFBF YF&R Discussion Meet and to view the 2019 Discussion Meet questions, visit www.mfbf.org/programs/young-farmers-ranchers or contact Sue Ann Streufert, 406-587-3153, sueanns@mfbf.org.



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Young Farmer and Rancher Upcoming Events

Young Ag Leadership Conference

Mark your calendar! Montana's Sixteenth Annual Young Ag Leadership Conference (YALC) is set to take place October 4-6, 2019 at the Copper King Hotel and Convention Center in Butte, Montana. Young people, ages 18-40, involved and interested in agriculture are invited to attend this one-of-a-kind conference where leadership, personal development, education and networking take center stage.

This year's agenda boasts a special guest speaker from Kansas, Jace Young of Legacy Farmer, LLC. Look him up on Facebook to get a feel for his message about planning for success in your ag business, or listen to his daily podcast. The workshop line-up will be packed with presenters coming to share about rangeland management, mental health in ag, branding your business and much more.

Look for more conference details, including registration information, to be released later this summer. For questions regarding the 2019 Young Ag Leadership Conference, contact Leah Johnson at (406) 733-2079 or leah.nelson.johnson@gmail.com.

Hoofin' it for Hunger

Registration is open for Hoofin' it for Hunger Saturday, October 12 at Fort Keogh Research Station in Miles City.

Start training now for the half-marathon, 10K or 5K. Proceeds benefit the Montana Food Bank Network. To date, the MFBF YF&R has donated just under \$50,000 since they started the race benefit in 2011. Registration fees are \$50 (half marathon), \$40 (10K) and \$30 (5K and virtual). Register at <https://runsignup.com/Race/MT/MilesCity/HoofinItForHunger>. Be sure to check out the Hoofin' it for Hunger Facebook page. Questions? Contact Sue Ann Streufert, 406-587-3153, sueanns@mfbf.org.



Women's Leadership Committee

PHOTO Contest



Entry deadline November 2

The contest theme is "MFBF: 100 Years, Then and Now". The committee encourages members to enter photos that capture what the theme means to them.

Contest Prize

First prize is \$100, second prize \$75, and third prize \$50. The top three winning photographs become the property of MFBF to be used for display and publicity purposes.

"MFBF: 100 Years, Then and Now"

The Montana Farm Bureau Federation Women's Leadership Committee Photo Contest will be held during the MFBF annual convention November 11-14 in at the Northern and Doubletree Hotels in downtown Billings. Photos will be on display and voted on by popular vote. The winners (first, second, and third prize) will be announced at the Awards Banquet, Friday, November 9. There will be a Facebook contest and a display at convention.

Contest RULES

- The entrant must be a current MFBF member and their membership number must be included with their entry.
- Open to amateur photographers only.
- Photos must be taken by entrant.
- No more than three photos per entrant.

Photos can only be submitted via email! Please email to the contest coordinator, Mary Hill, at BarJRGelbvieh@3rivers.net with the subject line MFBF PHOTO CONTEST 2019.

Montana Farm Bureau announces benefit discount on Ford, Lincoln vehicles

Montana Farm Bureau members now can save on purchases of eligible new Ford and Lincoln vehicles through the organization's new member benefit partnership with Ford Motor Company. The new benefit gives MFBF members \$500 in Farm Bureau Bonus Cash off the purchase or lease of an eligible new Ford vehicle and \$750 in Farm Bureau Bonus Cash off the purchase or lease of an eligible new Lincoln vehicle.

To take advantage of the savings, MFBF members can print a special savings certificate at FordFarmBureauAdvantage.com or www.LincolnFarmBureauAdvantage.com or visit their authorized Ford or Lincoln dealer for qualifications and complete details. You must be an MFBF member at least 30 days prior to using the Farm Bureau Bonus Cash.

"Ford Motor Company remains dedicated to expanding our Farm Bureau association and we are extremely pleased to now include the Montana Farm Bureau," said Kevin Cour, U.S. retail operations director. "Ford continues to support the ever-important sector of agriculture and farming for what it means to

those wholly committed to feeding the nation – and the world – in regularly challenged economic and environmental conditions. If we can help this vital group of hard-working Americans to own an F-150, the nation's best-selling truck for 42 years, our nation's farmers get equipment that can work as hard as they do."

The Ford and Lincoln member benefit adds to MFBF's portfolio of discounts and benefits available to the members of Montana's largest general farm organization. To learn more about the Ford and Lincoln benefit and to view all of MFBF's benefits, visit mfbf.org/benefits.

To become a Montana Farm Bureau member visit your local county Farm Bureau office or visit mfbf.org or call 406-587-3153.

Some exclusions apply. You must be an MFBF member at least 30 days prior to using the Farm Bureau Bonus Cash. Farm Bureau Bonus Cash is exclusively for active Farm Bureau members who are residents of the United States. This incentive is not available on Shelby GT350®, Shelby® GT350R, Mustang BULLITT, Ford GT, Focus RS and F-150 Raptor. This offer may not be used in conjunction with most other Ford Motor Company and Lincoln Motor Company private incentives or AXZD-Plans. Some customer and purchase eligibility restrictions apply. Must be a Farm Bureau member for 30 consecutive days prior to purchase and take new retail delivery from dealer by January 2, 2020.

About Ford Motor Company

Ford Motor Company is a global company based in Dearborn, Michigan. The company designs, manufactures, markets and services a full line of Ford cars, trucks, SUVs, electrified vehicles and Lincoln luxury vehicles, provides financial services through Ford Motor Credit Company and is pursuing leadership positions in electrification, autonomous vehicles and mobility solutions. Ford employs approximately 202,000 people worldwide. For more information regarding Ford, its products and Ford Motor Credit Company, please visit corporate.ford.com.

MDLIVE®

MDLIVE

A reminder that Montana Farm Bureau members can sign up for MDLIVE, an easy and inexpensive way for people to receive a doctor's care from afar without making a visit to the office. The service, which is especially useful for rural families who live far away from a doctor's office, costs \$4.95 per month which allows for unlimited calls. The health care professionals who visit with patients are all board-certified physicians. For more information visit mdlivebrokers.com/mfbf 801-288-1400.



Ag-friendly legislators receive awards

Following each legislative session, the Montana Farm Bureau gives awards to legislators who were advocates for agriculture and had high scores on the MFBF Legislative Report Card.

Friend of Farm Bureau

This award is given to the legislators who had the highest overall score on MFBF's legislative scorecard and who demonstrated their support of Montana agriculture through their voting record, bill sponsorship and leadership within various committees.

Senator Bruce "Butch" Gillespie (SD-9) from Ethridge received the Friend of Farm Bureau Award. Senator Gillespie brought a lifetime of ranching experience to the 66th Montana Legislature. Despite it being his first term, Senator Gillespie proved to be a key member of the Senate Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Committees. He sponsored legislation beneficial to agriculture and frequently provided valuable insight to his peers.

Representative Alan Redfield (HD-59) from Livingston, also received the Friend of Farm Bureau Award. He carried a heavy load during the 66th Legislature, as the chairman of the House Taxation Committee and a member of the House Agriculture Committee. As a rancher, Rep. Redfield was a key vote and advocate on all issues related to agriculture and rural Montana.



MFBF Vice President Cyndi Johnson and Representative Alan Redfield.

Golden Plow Award

This award is given to termed-out legislators who have exhibited exemplary service and dedication to agriculture in their tenure as a Montana legislator.

Representative Ray Shaw (HD-71), from Sheridan, received the Distinguished Service Golden Plow Award. Representative Shaw scored over 100 percent on the MFBF report card and has been a tireless advocate for agriculture during his tenure in the House. Serving as Chair of the House Agriculture Committee, Representative Shaw worked aggressively to get agriculture friendly legislation passed and bills with negative impacts to agriculture killed.

2017 Rookie of the Year

This award is given to a freshman legislator who went above and beyond in learning the legislative process and who served agriculture and rural Montana.

Representative Krautter, HD 35 from Sidney came into his first legislative session prepared to work on the behalf of his constituents. He carried HB 50 which provides protection and accountability to the state's farmers by giving the Department of Agriculture the ability to enforce agricultural commodity laws. An avid supporter of agriculture and rural Montana communities, he worked diligently to assure every bill he supported left a positive impact on rural Montana and the farming and ranching families that call the landscape home.



MFBF Vice President Cyndi Johnson, MFBF President Hans McPherson, Representative Joel Krautter and MFBF Lobbyists Nicole Rolf and Liv Stavick.

Golden Windmill Award Winners

These legislators scored in the highest percentages on our Report Card, sponsored priority legislation, served on important committees, secured critical votes and were active advocates for Montana Agriculture. They deserve special applause and recognition.

Senate

Senator Ryan Osmundson, SD 15, Buffalo, is a farmer by trade and keeps agriculture's best interests in mind, even while keeping close tabs on Montana's budget as the Chair of the Finance and Claims Committee. His firsthand knowledge of agriculture proved to be incredibly valuable in the Senate where there are fewer boots under the desks each session.

Senator Brian Hoven, SD 13, Great Falls, proved to be a thoughtful advocate for agriculture as the Chair of the Senate Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Committee as well as in his service to the Senate Taxation Committee. Senator Hoven received an above perfect score on MFBF's legislative report card, which speaks to his dedication to the number one industry in the state.

Senator Mike Lang, SD 17, Malta, is a small town business

owner and longtime rural Montanan. He understands the needs and concerns of our rural lifestyle. Sen. Lang always considers the best interests of agriculture and Montana's farm and ranch families. He was a pivotal member of the Senate Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation committee.

Senator Jeff Welborn, SD 36, Dillon, is no stranger to Farm Bureau, having served as president in Southwest Counties and as the YF&R Committee Chair. A rancher, auctioneer and trailer salesman, Senator Welborn understands agriculture well. MFBF was lucky to have him serve as Chair of the Senate Natural Resources Committee.

Senator Dan Salomon, SD 47, Ronan, brings a wealth of agricultural knowledge and experience to the legislature, so it's no surprise he's an asset to rural Montana on the Senate Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Committee. Sen. Salomon tackled tough topics and worked with a variety of stakeholders to ensure the best solution possible was achieved.

House of Representatives

Representative Walt Sales, HD 69, Manhattan, brings a wealth of knowledge about water law, which served him and his constituents, as well as the senior water right holders in the rest of the state, very well; both of the water bills he sponsored moved quickly through the process and have become law. Representative Sales is also a rancher himself and was able to share valuable insight on agriculture related legislation with his fellow legislators.

Representative Ross Fitzgerald, HD 17, Fairfield was an asset to agriculture in both the House Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Committee and House Natural Resources Committee this session. He sponsored a bill that increased the maximum annual assessment on wheat and barley, which will allow the MWBC to set the assessment at an amount appropriate to fund research, crop advancement, and market development.

Representative Wylie Galt, HD 30, Martinsdale, provided a strong voice for agriculture in House leadership this session. A rancher by trade, Representative Galt's expertise on complicated ag issues was extremely valuable, as he was able to communicate ag's position on many tough votes to his colleagues. He also carried multiple bills seeking to improve elk management issues in Montana that MFBF supported.

Representative Zach Brown, HD 63, Bozeman is a thoughtful, considerate and influential lawmaker, and serves as an excellent advocate and vote for agriculture. He sponsored multiple bills that MFBF supported, including HB 45 which seeks to simplify the water right change process and HB 431 which creates a student debt assistance program for beginning farmers and ranchers.

Silver Windmills

Silver windmills were awarded to legislators who received an A (90 percent or higher) on the MFBF Legislative Report Card.

Senator Duane Ankey	Colstrip
Senator Mark Blasdel	Kalispell
Senator Kenneth Bogner	Miles City
Senator Dee Brown	Hungry Horse
Senator Mike Cuffe	Eureka
Senator Jason Ellsworth	Hamilton
Senator John Esp	Big Timber
Senator Steve Fitzpatrick	Great Falls
Senator Terry Gauthier	Helena
Senator Steve Hinebaugh	Wibaux
Senator David Howard	Park City
Senator Doug Kary	Billings
Senator Bob Keenan	Bigfork
Senator Albert Olszewski	Kalispell
Senator Tom Richmond	Billings
Senator Scott Sales	Bozeman
Senator Jason Small	Busby
Senator Cary Smith	Billings
Senator Russ Tempel	Chester
Senator Fred Thomas	Stevensville
Representative Fred Anderson	Great Falls
Representative Jacob Bachmeier	Havre
Representative Nancy Ballance	Hamilton
Representative Becky Beard	Ellison
Representative David Bedey	Hamilton
Representative Bob Brown	Thompson Falls
Representative Ed Buttrey	Great Falls
Representative Geraldine Custer	Forsyth
Representative Julie Dooling	Helena
Representative Frank Fleming	Billings
Representative John Fuller	Kalispell
Representative Frank Garner	Kalispell
Representative Sharon Greef	Florence
Representative Bruce Grubbs	Bozeman
Representative Steve Gunderson	Libby
Representative Kenneth Holmlund	Miles City
Representative Mike Hopkins	Missoula
Representative Llew Jones	Conrad
Representative Joshua Kassmier	Fort Benton
Representative Casey Knudsen	Malta
Representative Rhonda Knudsen	Culbertson
Representative Denley Loge	Saint Regis
Representative Theresa Manzella	Hamilton
Representative Wendy Mckamey	Great Falls
Representative Eric Moore	Miles City
Representative Dale Mortensen	Billings
Representative Joe Read	Ronan
Representative Vince Ricci	Laurel
Representative Tom Welch	Dillon
Representative Kerry White	Bozeman

Scholarships

Women's Leadership Committee Scholarships

The MFBF Women's Leadership Committee awarded a \$1500 scholarship to **William Hanson**, Meagher County Farm Bureau and a \$1500 scholarship to **Lane Lerum**, Front Range Counties. Hanson, White Sulphur Springs, plans to pursue a degree in biomedical engineering from Arizona State University. Lerum, Galata, whose interests are agricultural education and ag advocacy, will pursue a degree in animal science with an emphasis in farm and ranch management from Montana State University.



Williams Hanson, MFBF Women's Leadership Committee Scholarship, with Alysha Wilson, Meagher County president

Foundation Scholarships

Kyler Mahrang of Helena received the \$1500 Future of Agriculture Scholarship, administered by the Montana Farm Bureau Foundation and made available through generous donations from Seed Source, Inc. of Toston. Mahrang is currently working on a major in animal science and a minor in small business management and is involved in the MSU Collegiate YF&R. He works on his family ranch near Helena in the summer and plans to be heavily involved in ag advocacy.



Lane Lerum, MFBF Women's Leadership Committee Scholarship, with Cyndi Johnson, vice president, MFBF.

Kelsey Kraft has received the \$1,000 MFB Foundation Collegiate Young Farmer and Rancher Scholarship. Kraft plans to stay in production agriculture and hopes to work toward a career in agricultural education as well as staying involved in production agriculture.

ShaAnn Danelson was awarded the \$1,000 MFB Foundation Bernard Greufe Honor Scholarship. Danelson plans to attend either MSU or Dickinson State University to pursue a degree in ag business. She has been a member of the Daniels 4-H Program.

County Scholarships

Fergus County Farm Bureau scholarship recipient was Grady Gilpatrick who graduated from Fergus High School, Lewistown. He received a \$250 scholarship to attend Montana State University.

Carbon/Stillwater County Farm Bureau presented two scholarships. Walker Anttila, Joliet, will receive a \$500 scholarship. He plans to attend

Casper College where he will major in animal science and ag communications. He hopes to one day become an MSU Extension Agent. Andee Baker of Park City received a \$500 scholarship. She plans to attend MSU Bozeman majoring in political science and ag. business. She plans to become an ag-related government official.

Valley County Farm Bureau awarded two \$250 scholarships to Garrett Lloyd and Micah Tweten, both graduates of Glasgow High School. Lloyd will be attending MSU in Bozeman studying engineering and Tweten will be attending MSU-Northern studying nursing.

Southwest Counties Farm Bureau award a \$750 scholarship to Alfred Peterson, Wisdom. Peterson plans to attend Missoula College at the University of Montana to study diesel technology. Dalton Pauley, Deer Lodge received \$750 and plans to attend Northwest College in Powell, Wyoming to study ag business.



Walter Anttila receives his scholarship from Rhonda Hergenrider, president, Carbon/Stillwater County Farm Bureau.

Calling all rural entrepreneurs

Do you have a great idea that will make your rural town more viable? Have you devised a new product, a unique crop or a small-town business idea that will improve the local economy? During a presentation by Farm Bureau member Bob Quinn at the MFBF Summer Conference, Quinn mentioned that it's essential to have business in small towns that help the community thrive. Quinn cited a few businesses he has started over the years that are spin-offs of Quinn Farm & Ranch including the Oil Barn, Kamut International and Big Sandy Organics. One example of rural development is the Oil Barn. Although it took some experimenting, trial and error, Quinn started growing high oleic safflower which he was planning to use for biodiesel for his tractor; however, it turned out there was a market (he computed \$16/gallon) to sell to restaurants and to the University of Montana Dining. Long story short, in an "oil rental" deal, Quinn gets the used oil back from UM for his tractor, he uses the mash from compressing the oil for dairy cow feed and has small bottles of oil to sell in the retail market. Best of all, 14 people in the Big Sandy area (and one in Missoula) have employment because of Quinn's determination for rural development and healthy communities.

Rural areas are being left out of Montana's rapid job growth. Since 2019 marks the 100th birthday of MFBF, the Foundation Board of Directors established Centennial Community Initiative to renew commitment for the betterment of Montana. The CCI has grant money available and is looking for some entrepreneurs and companies that will contribute to economic development in rural Montana. It's hoped the grant money will be used as seed money to kick-start projects.



Bob Quinn talking about the ancient grain Kamut during his presentation.



Projects that could be funded include:

- Creating a business plan to attract start-up capital
- Providing matching grant money for large economic development projects
- Purchasing equipment needed for rural business.

Applications are due by December 31, 2019. For more information or a grant application visit www.mfbf.org/foundation or contact Scott Kulbeck, 406-587-3153, scottk@mfbf.org.

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Grain by Grain

A Quest to Revive Ancient Wheat, Rural Jobs and Healthy Food — By Bob Quinn and Liz Carlisle

REVIEW BY REBECCA COLNAR

During the Montana Farm Bureau Summer Conference last month, the morning keynote speaker was Professor Emeritus, Agricultural Economic and Economics, Dr. Gary Brester. In comparing 100 years of Farm Bureau, MSU and continuous changes in farming and ranching, Dr. Brester cited technological advances as what has kept food on the tables in America and truly around the world. Advances in technology has led our society to be able to pursue a non-agrarian lifestyle while two percent of farmers and ranchers produce the food that feeds us. As noted in John Youngberg's editorial on page 5, food production must increase by 70 percent by 2050. Brester cited technologies such as gene modification and gene editing as important tools for increased food production.

“The book is well written and keeps one interest as Quinn talks about his path from farming commodities to organic farming, growing organic vegetables on his farm and how he established a remarkable oil seed model.”

Interestingly, in a morning workshop that day, organic farmer, businessman and Chouteau County Farm Bureau member Bob Quinn talked about his concerns with modern agriculture as well as providing insight into rural development and his small businesses that nurture the environment and community. It was

interesting to listen to two educated but entirely diverse opinions about how 21st century farmers are going to feed a growing population.

Bob Quinn's just-published book, *Grain by Grain*, tells his story about how he went from being a “true believer in better farming through chemistry, to a leading proponent of organics.” He tells how he and his father, former Montana Farm Bureau President Mack Quinn, re-discovered an ancient grain called khorosan or kamut and gives the story about their journey to grow and eventually market this unique grain. Other chapters include recycling energy, bringing rural jobs back, food as medicine, taste of place and growing organic. Quinn has traveled the world to visit with other farmers about what he's discovered in his quest to talk about regenerative agriculture and good food.

The 268-page hardcover book is well written and keeps one's interest as Quinn talks about his path from farming commodities to organic farming, growing organic vegetables on his farm and how he established a remarkable oil seed model.

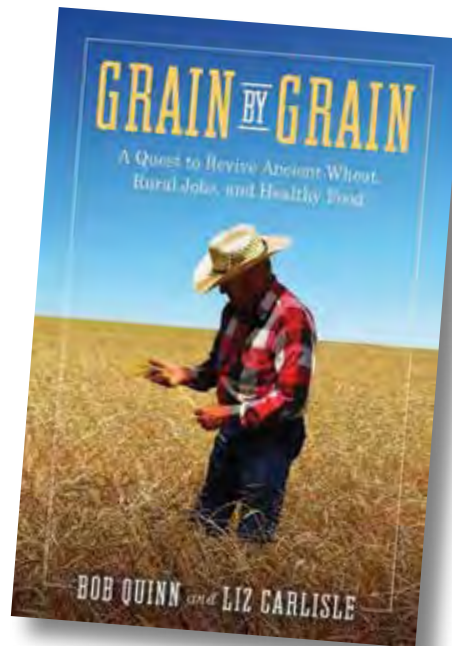
Keep in mind the book is telling the story from Quinn's point of view. Many of his observations are straight out of

the “organic playbook.” He has become critical of modern farming methods (which he calls “industrial”) from GMOs to pesticide use. There are a few omissions; when discussing the 1960s, there is no

mention of Norm Borlaug, the father of the Green Revolution who developed wheat varieties that could be grown in the climate of Central America and Africa; thus putting a halt to predicted world starvation. In his mention of the Alar apple “scare” which was caused by 60-Minutes saying apples sprayed with the chemical Alar, caused cancer. That story cost apple growers more than \$125 million. Quinn did not mention this

story was later debunked. Quinn is strong believer that chemical companies and large food companies are in cahoots. Many of our MFBF member farmers use modern agricultural methods successfully and may not agree with Quinn.

However, the book is a worthwhile read because it explains one person's journey and his trials and errors of starting viable businesses in small town Montana. It's impressive to read about the creativity and work that Quinn has poured into his enterprises and read why he believes organic/regenerative agriculture is the answer for the future.



Grain by Grain retails for \$28. Order it from your independent, local bookstore. Also available at Barnes & Noble and through Amazon.

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* Farm Bureau Ford Bonus Cash \$500 offer exclusively for active Farm Bureau members who are residents of the United States. Must be a Farm Bureau member for 30 consecutive days prior to purchase and take new retail delivery from dealer by January 2, 2020. Offer is valid through 1/2/2020 for the purchase or lease of an eligible new 2018/2019/2020 model year Ford vehicle. Program 37264; Additional \$500 Conquest Bonus Cash offer exclusively for active Farm Bureau members valid for a purchase or lease from 7/2/19 through 9/30/19 of an eligible new 2018/2019/2020 model year Ford vehicle. Customer must have a registered 1995 or newer non-Ford/Lincoln/Mercury vehicle in their name for at least 30 days, to be eligible for this additional \$500 incentive. Not available on Shelby GT350®, Shelby® GT350R, Mustang BULLITT, Ford GT, Focus RS, and F-150 Raptor. This offer may not be used in conjunction with most other Ford Motor Company private incentives or AXZD-Plans. Some customer and purchase eligibility restrictions apply. Limit one Bonus Cash and Conquest offer per vehicle purchase or lease. Visit FordFarmBureauAdvantage.com or see your authorized Ford Dealer for qualifications and complete details. Ford Dealers please claim #36816 for Farm Bureau Program and #37264 for additional \$500 Conquest Bonus Cash in Smart VINCENT.



POLARIS



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The Montana Farm Bureau YF&R Program helps young members hone their leadership and communications skills for the future of Montana's ag industry. The winner of the 2019 Discussion Meet will be taking home a new Polaris Ranger 570! Go to www.mfbf.org to find out more.

A huge thank you to our participating Polaris dealers!

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Redline Sports, Inc - Butte
Riverside Marine and Cycle - Miles City
Sports City Cyclery - Great Falls
Yellowstone Polaris - Billings

